

## **British Museum invites charity and cultural partners to help engage young people in arts and culture across the UK**

*Supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation*

Press images: <https://bit.ly/49fl2Au>

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Applications open now until 26 February 2024: [britishmuseum.org/where-we-are](https://britishmuseum.org/where-we-are)

**LONDON, 31 January:** Charities and cultural venues from around the UK are invited to apply for the fourth year of the youth-led British Museum programme *Where we are...*

This innovative national programme for those aged 16–24 aims to empower young people through the creation of arts and culture projects within their own local communities.

Launching a national open call to partner organisations across the UK, the programme invites cultural and third sector organisations to help co-deliver these projects as part of the British Museum's National Programmes.

*Where we are...* encourages young people to interpret what arts and culture mean to them, and projects can include any type of cultural expression. The third year of *Where we are...* projects in 2023 involved a variety of creative outputs in Wakefield and Swindon, including photography, ceramics, print making and painting with light.

This funded programme aims to help bridge the many barriers that can prevent young people from engaging with arts and culture locally, helping to develop their skills, and provide them with experience in project management, communication, creative problem solving and networking.

Applications from all types of museum and cultural space are invited, as are those from any registered third sector organisation that works with young people. Once the two Key Partners are recruited, the programme will invite young people who are traditionally under-served in the arts and culture sector to apply. Applicants of any background or experience are welcome, especially those who haven't engaged with museums before.

Interested organisations should apply through the [British Museum website](#) by 26 February to be involved in the fourth year of programme delivery.

Maria Bojanowska, Dorset Foundation Head of National Programmes, said:

*“It has been fantastic to see this programme inspire so many young people around the UK to get involved with arts and culture in their local communities. We have seen a huge variety of cultural expression through these projects, with the programme allowing young people to interpret what makes arts and culture meaningful to them. I’m excited to see the diversity of this year’s projects, and invite any third sector or cultural organisation that is seeking to empower young people in their community to apply.”*

Hanouf Al-Alawi, National Outreach Manager, said:

*“It has been so encouraging to see the impact that this programme can have in building young people’s confidence and in making new community connections. We look forward to hearing from organisations across the UK, and to bringing ideas for this year’s projects to life. If you would like to bring ‘Where we are..’ to your community, please do get in touch.”*

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## **Notes to editors**

### **Criteria for museums or cultural organisations**

1. An accredited museum or cultural organisation in any part of the UK (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland).
2. Museums of all types are encouraged to apply including natural history, science, technology, history and arts.
3. Has existing relationships with local community organisations and/or a willingness to explore and establish new collaborative partnerships.
4. Has a strong interest in working locally with young people (aged 16–24) who are under-served in the cultural sector. This includes, but is not limited to, young people who define themselves as: LGBTQIA+; from working class backgrounds; neurodivergent; disabled; having a migrant or refugee experience; from African Diaspora; from South, East and South East Asian diaspora; and/or ethnically diverse.
5. Has a strong interest in assets-based approach to young people’s programming. This approach recognises the interests, knowledge, identities and resources of under-served young people. It recognises young people for who they are and not who they are not.
6. Has a willingness to use co-design, co-delivery and co-production of projects with young people. Co-production is the process of collaboratively designing and delivering a project with people with lived experience, by recognising and celebrating the value of direct life experience (rather than only professional expertise) in the planning, designing and delivering of a project.
7. Has internal staff capacity to be engaged in this programme.
8. Can facilitate access to museum resources, including but not limited to, collections or gallery spaces for the young people if needed.
9. Is willing to work collaboratively with a local third sector organisation and the British Museum to co-produce young people’s programming.

10. Be able to articulate their ambitions for this youth engagement beyond the life of the proposed project.
11. Optional: Can propose a young people-led arts or culture project idea that serves a local need.

### **Criteria for third sector organisations**

1. A registered organisation in any part of the UK (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland).
2. Doesn't need to be an arts or cultural organisation.
3. Has strong experience working locally with young people (aged 16–24) who are under-served in the cultural sector. This includes, but is not limited to, young people who define themselves as: LGBTQIA+; from working class backgrounds; neurodivergent; disabled; having a migrant or refugee experience; from African diaspora; from South, East and South East Asian diaspora; and/or ethnically diverse.
4. Can articulate the needs of young people in their local area.
5. Has adopted an assets-based approach to their programming work with young people. This approach recognises and values the interests, knowledge, identities and resources of under-served young people. It recognises young people for who they are and not who they are not.
6. Preferably has experience in co-design, co-delivery and co-production of projects with young people, or at least an understanding of it and readiness to use this approach. Co-production is the process of collaboratively designing and delivering a project with people with lived experience, by recognising and celebrating the value of direct life experience (rather than only professional expertise) in the planning, designing and delivering of a project.
7. Has internal staff capacity to be engaged in this programme.
8. Is willing to work collaboratively with a local museum or a cultural organisation and the British Museum to co-produce young people programming.
9. Be able to articulate their ambitions for this young people engagement beyond the life of the proposed project.
10. Optional: Can propose a young people-led arts or culture project idea that serves a local need.

### **The British Museum's National Programmes**

The British Museum is committed to sharing the collection and our knowledge as widely as possible to create a positive educational, social and economic impact across the UK. In 2022/23 we lent nearly 2,000 objects to 122 museums and galleries, reaching over 6.5 million visitors outside London. Our loans to partnership museums and galleries facilitate new perspectives on our shared global history, reflecting diverse viewpoints, lived experiences and collective ideas.

The British Museum also manages the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in England, recording and sharing British archaeological discoveries to help shape our understanding of the past.



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#### **Further information**

Contact the Press Office: [communications@britishmuseum.org](mailto:communications@britishmuseum.org)

High resolution images and caption sheet available at: <https://bit.ly/49fi2Au>